aero engines are set up where the fleet strength makes it economically viable to set up the facilities.

The facilities for overhaul of TV3 engines of Mi-17 helicopters inducted in the Indian Air Force in 1985-86 were initially scheduled for completion by 1993-94. However, due to the break-up of the erstwhile Soviet Union, negotiations could be completed only between 1996-1999 for setting up the facilities. Thereafter, the facilities have been commissioned and engine overhaul started in January, 2001.

Repair/overhaul facilities for engine of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters were established in the early sixties and these arc fully operational.

Increase in firing along LoC

326. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked heavy firings several times along LoC, particularly in the area of Akhnoor sector in the last few months;

(b) iT so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian forces have given befitting reply to such unprovoked firings by Pak troops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Indian soldiers killed and property damaged due to such firings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The firing incidents in the Akhnoor Sector are a regular phenomenon. During the last four months, 93 incidents of firing b/Pakistani troops had taken place in this sector, which had been appropriately responded to.

During the last four months, 11 Indian Army personnel were killed and 19 Indian Army personnel were wounded due to enemy firing along LoC.

Increase in deployment of troops by Pakistan along LoC

327. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has deployed more troops along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and Ganganagar in Rajasthan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan, if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to effectively retaliate and repulse any Pakistan gameplan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Opposite Akhnoor sector, two Pakistani infantry divisions and two armoured formations are located from the second week of October and opposite Ganganagar sector one Pakistan infantry division and one armoured division are present. This is ostensibly an exercise as a part of routine yearly Winter Collective Training. No unusual military activity and dumping of additional arms and ammunitions along the International Border has come to notice.

(c) The matter has been taken up with Pakistan at the level of Director General of Military Operations.

(d) Activities of Pakistan along the Line of Control are constantly monitored and a high state of vigilance is being maintained. Adequate measures have been taken to ensure the security of the Border.